

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229
INFO AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 1129

CORRECTED COPY (OMITTED TEXT)

FOLLOWING TEL SENT BANGKOK 14 JANUARY REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION:

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL SONGKHLA 0010
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, TH
SUBJECT: COUNTERINSURGENCY IN SURAT THANI

SUMMARY: LOCAL OFFICIALS CONFIRM ARREST OF NUMEROUS CI SUPPORTERS
AND SEVEN INSURGENT CADRE. SOME ARE CONCERNED OVER TREATMENT OF
SUPPORTERS. STUDENTS WHO HAVE JOINED INSURGENTS IN SURAT ARE NOT
INVOLVED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS. STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT FOR IN-
SURGENTS IN WIANG-SA DISTRICT CONTINUES TO HINDER RTG. RUMORS OF
TRANSFER OF RANKING PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS INCLUDING GOVERNOR ARE
RAMPANT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT TO SURAT JAN 12-13 LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS SAID
SWEEP OPERATIONS BY BORDER PATROL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE IN WIA-
SA, PHRASAENG, AND BAN NA SAN DISTRICTS HAD RESULTED IN THE ARREST
OF NUMEROUS CT "SUPPORTERS" AND SEIZURE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF
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PROPAGANDA AND DOCUMENTS. ONE POLICE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED CONCERN
THAT IN SEVERAL CASES AFTER BRIEF INTERROGATION SUPPORTERS HAVE
BEEN EXECUTED RATHER THAN TRIED IN COURT. SOME SOURCES SAID
TOTAL OF SEVEN MEN BELIEVED TO BE INSURGENT LEADERS HAD BEEN
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. ONE OF THESE WAS FORMERLY THE DRIVER FOR
THE DISTRICT OFFICER IN PHRASAENG.

2. POLICE SAID ABOUT TWO HUNDRED STUDENTS HAD JOINED INSURGENTS IN SURAT SINCE OCT 6. THEY ARE NOT BEING ARMED BUT ARE USED TO CONDUCT PROPAGANDA SESSIONS IN VILLAGES. THIS PRESUMABLY ALLOWS INSURGENTS TIME TO JUDGE THEIR LOYALTY WITHOUT EXPOSING THEM TO INSURGENT LEADERSHIP OR BASE CAMPS.

3. IN CONVERSATION JAN 13 SURAT THANI GOV. CHALIT PHIMOLSRI, SAID WIANG-SA DISTRICT REMAINS THE MOST TROUBLED AREA. CHALIT SAID MAJORITY OF THE VILLAGERS THERE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE INSURGENTS AND RTG EFFORTS TO WIN VILLAGERS OVER MAKING LITTLE HEADWAY. MILITARY ACTION HAS LED TO A NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN WIANG-SA, BUT SITUATION IN SOME VILLAGES IS LIKE OCCUPATION BY RTG FORCES WITHOUT LOCAL SUPPORT.

4. RTG APPEARS TO BE SHAKING UP SURAT OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE. PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF OF SURAT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AFTER ONLY TWO MONTHS ON THE JOB. RUMORS ABOUND OF PENDING TRANSFER OF OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND GOV. CHALIT CONFIDED THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE AROUND MUCH LONGER. HE CLAIMED HE WAS BEING UNJUSTLY ACCUSED OF LETTING SITUATION DETERIORATE WHEN IN FACT HIS REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION HAD NOT BEEN MET. (LEADING CONTENDER TO REPLACE CHALIT IS RUMORED TO BE GOV. CHAWAT SUTLAPHA OF PHANG-NGA. INTERESTINGLY, CHAWAT IS FORMER PROTEGE OF PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN AND WAS ONCE PRAPHAT'S AIDE AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HAMILTON UNQTE
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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